

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1968

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN/PK

SUBJ: APPOINTMENT OF MAHBUB UL HAQ AS ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER

1. MAHBUB UL HAQ, CURRENTLY DIRECTOR, POLICY PLANNING AND PROGRAM REVIEW DEPT. OF IBRD, CONFIRMED TO ECON COUNS. NO. 8 HIS APPOINTMENT AS ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. SAID HE WOULD LEAVE NOV. 11 FOR WASHINGTON (VIA STOCKHOLM FOR CONFERENCE), AND EXPECTED RETURN PAKISTAN AND TAKE UP HIS NEW POSITION AROUND END THIS MONTH.
2. IN CONTEXT THIS MAKING THIRD ADVISOR IN ECONOMIC FIELD (BUCHA, AGRICULTURE; AND QAISER, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS), QUESTION WAS RAISED TO HAQ RE DELINEATION OF FIELDS OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE INDICATED HE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON PLANS FOR STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH.
3. SOUNDED OUT ON HIS APPROACH TO ACCELERATING GROWTH, HAQ COMMENCED BY DEPLORING CURRENT FVATE OF ECONOMY, OBSERVING THAT "BIG PUSH" IS BADLY NEEDED. THIS SHOULD BE TWOFOLD: A) STRONG AND SUSTAINED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE GROWTH OF "PROGRESSIVE AGRARIAN SECTOR," AIMING AT 10-15 PERCENT GAINS RATHER THAN GREATEST TARGETS OF 5 PERCENT

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OR SO; AND B) MEASURES TO STIMULATE INVESTOR SECTOR,

WHICH HE NOTED IS SO DEPRESSED THAT THERE IS ACTUALLY NET DISINVESTMENT.

4. HAQ, ON AGRARIAN SIDE, DECLARED THAT RESOURCES OF COUNTRY AFFORD EXCELLENT BASE FOR VERY SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. GOP NEEDS TO IDENTIFY BEST INCENTIVE MEASURES AND APPLY RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

5. HE DEPLORED FACT THAT INVESTOR SECTOR (INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE) HAD FALLEN FROM ABOUT 8 TO 4 PERCENT OF GNP. THE GOP, HE SATED, MUST "ARRANGE A TRUCE" WITH INVESTOR SECTOR; CLEAR AND PRECISE STATEMENTS AND GUARANTEES ON NATIONALIZATION PLANS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS SHOULD BE MADE, AND GOP SHOULD BE JUST AS CAREFUL IN OBSERVING PLEDGES IT MAKES AS IT EXPECTS INVESTOR SECTOR TO BE IN KEEPING ITS WORK ON MAKING NEW INVESTMENTS AND EXPANDING EXISTING ONES. "GOP MUST WORK WITH THE TWENTY-TWO FAMILIES" HE ADDED. HAQ SAID FREE ENTERPRISE CAN MAKE BIG CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, IF THERE ARE APPROPRIATE GOP POLICIES.

6. ECON COUNS. WELCOMED HAQ BACK TO PAKISTAN, BOTH RECALLING THEIR ASSOCIATIONS 1968-70 WHEN HE WAS CHIEF ECONOMIST, PLANNING DIVISION. HE CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS APPOINTMENT, AND STRONGLY ENDORSED HIS ANALYSIS OF NEEDS OF PAK ECONOMY, STATING THAT INADEQUACY OF FOOD AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT TOGETHER WITH DEPRESSED INVESTOR SECTOR ARE INDEED GLARING WEAKNESSES (ALONG WITH INFLATION) OF PAK ECONOMIC SCENE.
DECON 6/30/74.SOBER

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